

April 19, 2007

Dear FCC,

We have a great opportunity to implement a simple solution to a problem. An FCC tower lighting policy change to blinking lights could make a big difference in our world.

Life on our planet has been rich and varied for a very long time. We humans have benefited from that richness in many ways, not the least of which is in occasionally retreating to small or large patches of the natural world in order to remain sane amongst growing pressures to speed, figuratively and literally, along life's 'highways'. We have had the luxury of being able to 'retreat' as easily as listening at our windows or in our backyards for the songbirds which returned year after year.

In recent years our songbird population has been plummeting. The causes are many, but one cause which is clear and documented (though more thorough documentation would likely point out how truly huge is this problem) is the case of millions of migrating birds dying as a result of their attraction during bad weather to tower lights. They collide with towers and their more-deadly guywires. As the number of towers in our country multiplies, we can address this problem.

. Most of us do what we can to retain some balance in our lives. Part of that balance is to live, within reason, peacefully with our fellow creatures on the planet. To note their existence and adjust our actions in order to allow them to continue to live is something which gives a great many of us the feeling that we are being truly human.

We believe that our industry and government should reflect these values of balance and harmony. Especially when we know of our negative impacts, we would feel we were being unfair, unjust, inhuman, if we do not employ an existing simple solution to reduce unnecessary mortality.

Life in our country has gotten bleaker in many ways, even as our options of what we can BUY have expanded exponentially. That which we cannot buy, the solace of (even slightly) wild nature, is something we can help to protect by making this tower lighting policy change.

We urge you to require flashing lights on all towers.

Sincerely,

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